

One measure, however, which I will not condone and will not even consider is any effort by this leadership to cut Social Security.

Social Security is a covenant the U.S. Government has made with its citizens, a promise to support working Americans when they are retired and living on fixed incomes.

The working families of the Nation, and of New York, want straight talk, and they deserve to know whether or not Social Security is on the table.

In the only opportunity we had to exempt Social Security in the 104th Congress, every Republican but one voted against an amendment to exempt Social Security during markup of the balanced budget amendment in the Judiciary Committee.

Simply put, we cannot afford to balance the budget on the backs of working Americans who are living on fixed incomes.

These are difficult economic times for the people of New York's southern tier and the Nation. Senior citizens should know for certain that their benefits are not in danger.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas). The Chair would like to remind all Members that there is a limitation of 20 1-minutes. There have been 16 on each side to this point. The Chair will recognize Members in order. The Chair would ask Members to adjust their ranking so that we can get on with the business of the morning. Those who were here first, I presume, will be recognized.

DEMOCRATS, NOT REPUBLICANS, RAISED TAXES ON SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, all right, let us talk about Social Security. In 1993, the first year your Democrat President was in office, the Democrat Party, without one vote from the Republican side, raised taxes on Social Security.

Then in the same legislation, the Democrat Party voted to put that money, the new proceeds, not in the Social Security trust fund but in the general fund. Why? Probably so your Democrat President could have more money to pass out as largess when he needs one of the bits and pieces of his legislation passed.

For example, your President, when NAFTA comes, he is so offended by \$20 presents from lobbyists, teeshirts from school groups, and baseball caps from veterans' organizations; he comes into the House,

If you will want to help pass NAFTA, I will give you a million dollars here. You want to save your helium reserve plant? Let me give

you a couple of million. Let me give you a couple of million for your dam back home. We want your vote.

You do not want a balanced budget amendment because you want to protect Social Security; the fact is you do not want a balanced budget amendment because you do not want a balanced budget; not to protect Social Security but protect your largess when you need votes passed, and your President uses it the most.

HIGHER MINIMUM WAGE PRODUCES ADDITIONAL JOBS

(Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as a strong supporter of the proposal put forth by President Clinton to increase the minimum wage, I would like to share with my colleagues the findings of a survey in my home State of New Jersey. Despite dire predictions by some of gloom and doom, our New Jersey businesses report that they actually added jobs to their payrolls after the minimum wage was raised in our State.

As Governor Christine Todd Whitman acknowledged in an interview following President Clinton's State of the union Address, New Jersey workers could not make ends meet on the national minimum wage of \$4.25. Our State of New Jersey has a \$5.05 minimum wage.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the fact that our State has led the Nation in providing workers with the decent living wage they deserve.

I support extending the increase in the minimum wage to every worker in our Nation. Let me point out that the value of the current Federal minimum wage, adjusted for inflation, has fallen by about 50 cents an hour since 1991.

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It is about 27 percent lower than it was in 1979. Let us make sure that the economic recovery reaches all Americans, and let us support President Clinton's minimum wage increase.

A SPECIAL CHALLENGE TO THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SIXTH DISTRICT OF GEORGIA

(Ms. MCKINNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday evening the President stood in this Chamber and called on the American people to join him in reforming our Government. More importantly, he issued a challenge to Members of Congress to voluntarily refrain from taking lobbyists' gifts.

I am proud to say that I rise to the President's challenge and will no longer accept gifts from lobbyists. From now on this sign will grace the door of my office, and any Member who

signs this pledge sheet will also get a sign to hang on their door.

Mr. Speaker, I issue a special challenge to my colleague from the Sixth District of Georgia to take this pledge and illustrate his commitment to a gift ban by abandoning, and I will have to say it in piglet Latin, his ook-bay eal-day.

All of us have accepted one gift or another from lobbyists. However, as the President reminded us, we cannot change our yesterdays, but our todays and tomorrows we can.

SUPPORT THE THREE-FIFTHS AMENDMENT

(Mr. HEINEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HEINEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the balanced budget amendment with its three-fifths supermajority. If we in this Congress are sincere in voting for a meaningful amendment, then we must put a clutch on our ability to raise taxes to pay for our inability to do our jobs.

People across this country are constantly in a process of balancing their personal budgets. The States and municipalities across this country are balancing their budgets. Private enterprise is constantly trying to balance their budgets. I ask, "Why can't we climb aboard by balancing our budget without whimsically overtaxing the people to do this?"

We should be leaders. We should be the generals who lead the parade, not those who march behind it. Let us get out front and demonstrate that we can make tough decisions to keep our house in order. We do not need to be the parent who constantly raids the children's piggy bank to pay our way.

Support the three-fifths amendment. Vote for the Barton amendment.

THE CONSTITUTION SHOULD NOT ALLOW A MINORITY TO CONTROL THE BUDGET PROCESS

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLVER. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass a balanced budget amendment, but amending the Constitution really cannot be taken lightly. Our Constitution has only been amended 17 times in over 200 years since the Bill of Rights. Our Constitution is based on majority rule, and we should not vote to put budget control in the hands of a minority of Members.

In all the instances that are written into the Constitution of a supermajority, all of those are instances are where the legislative branch must approve or must override the action of another coequal branch: The affirmative vote to override a veto by the President, the Executive, the